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Situational Awareness

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Situational Awareness

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What is situational awareness ?

Can be defined as :

Knowing what's going on by scanning your environment

What exactly am I looking for? How do I know if I am paying attention to the right things? Are there behaviours or warning signs of an imminent threat that I should know about?

To develop situational awareness we need to understand the "left of bang" concept

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Left of Bang

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Left of Bang

POI is planning and preparing

Observe pre-event indicators and act

BANG
(The Event)

POI is escaping or still involved in event

Police react to event

Right of Bang

"Left of Bang" can be described as a timeline of an incident where "Bang" is the incident. The left is the lead up to the incident and the right is after the incident has occurred.

We want to remain "Left of Bang" using indicators to assist us in identifying threats

To do this we need to develop our situational awareness, establish a baseline and understand what is going on.

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Baseline

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Establish a baseline when entering an area. A baseline is a starting point for assessment

The baseline is made up of patterns that individuals, groups and the environment set for future comparison

Setting a baseline will allow you to identify anomalies

Baseline Process

1. Conduct your search
2. Determine your environment
3. Assess your behavioural clusters

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Hasty vs Deliberate Search

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As part of establishing a baseline you need to conduct a search of the environment.

Two types of searches:

Hasty Search : the first thing people do when they walk into any environment (Positive/ Negative/ Comfortable/ Uncomfortable).

The Hasty search is to identify any immediate threat. By quickly assessing whether the mood is positive or negative you are taking the first step towards setting the baseline.

Deliberate Search : An in-depth look at the processes, patterns and behaviours that make up the baseline for the area they are in.

In both searches you are looking for indicators and anomalies to the baseline

Observe + Orient = Situational Awareness

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Behavioural Clusters

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In determining your baseline and identifying anomalies it is important to understand your environment and break down people, situations and the environment into its component parts using the four pillars of observable behaviour. These four pillars provide enough information to get a comprehensive understanding of a situation without slowing the decision-making process.

The four pillars are:

Pillar 1: Individuals:

People displaying one of the four clusters of behaviour: Dominant, Submissive, Uncomfortable, or Comfortable.

Pillar 2: Groups of People:

The relationship between members of a group are: Intimate, Personal, Acquaintances, Strangers

Pillar 3: Environment:

Places are either: Habitual areas or anchor points
People are either: Familiar or unfamiliar with their surroundings

Pillar 4: The Collective:

Places have either: Positive atmospherics or negative atmospherics

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Anomalies/ Indicators

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Determining Anomalies

- Deviation from your baseline
- Someone who does not fit the atmosphere
- A sudden change in mood
- An immediate negative atmosphere

Indicators

- Look at their hands
- Checking their "six", looking around
- Movement that goes against the flow
- Are their arms crossed
- Clothing (Masks)
- Dominant behaviours
- Giving direction to others
- Facial expressions

Boston Bombing: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N4L7UIatts0

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Informed Situational Awareness

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Observe + Orient = Situational Awareness

Observe + Orient + Intelligence = Informed Situational Awareness

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Questions ?

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